

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Ruffed Grouse watercolor by William Savage.
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David L. Savage and the Iowa Ornithological Association

Thomas H. Kent

The Iowa Ornithological Association (IOA), Iowa's first birding organization, was organized on June 15, 1894. At the request of President Ernest Irons, David L. Savage, age 17, became the editor of the association's journal, The Iowa Ornithologist, which was hailed as the only magazine devoted to ornithology and oology in the Mississippi Valley (Savage 1894a). President Irons indicated that "The work of the Association is done entirely through correspondence."

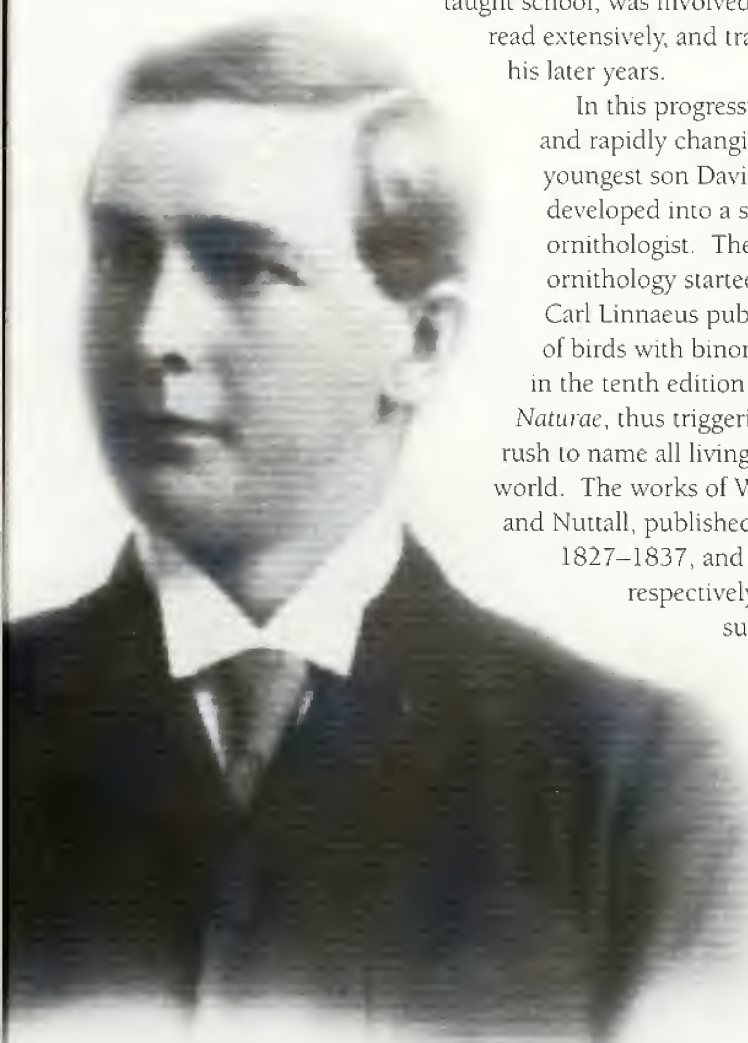
In the first issue of *The Iowa Ornithologist*, dated October 1894, the membership list included 20 active members, 2 honorary members, and 4 associate members. The first of three annual meetings of the association was held in Iowa City on 22–23 August 1895. The last issue of the journal was Vol. 4, No. 3 dated July 1898. The battle of San Juan Hill occurred on 1 July 1898. The planned 4th annual meeting of the association was likely canceled due to the Spanish American War. As of April 1898, membership had increased to 63 active, 23 associate, and 3 honorary.

The main purpose of this paper is to chronicle the ornithological activities and contributions of David L. Savage. Because he was editor and treasurer for the Iowa Ornithological Association during the organization's entire existence, his contributions bear directly on the history of that organization. I am indebted to members of the Savage family for much of the information and encouragement to write this paper. Lewis D. Savage, provided a life history of his father, his father's diaries (December 1889 to November 1893 and June 1896 to May 1897), other information, and photographs. Dr. Alfred D. Savage, a grandson, provided numerous documents and constant encouragement. Mary Alice Savage, a grandniece, provided a typescript of the diary and of parts of the much more extensive diary of David's father, John (with entries from December 1860 to October 1912). The Iowa State Historical Society in Des Moines and Iowa

City provided access to the diaries of William and John Savage, the paintings of William Savage, and other documents.

David L. Savage was born in rural Henry County, Iowa, north of Salem on 30 June 1877 and died there on 5 March 1955. He was the youngest of 11 children of John and Tacy Savage. John's father, William, a tailor, moved his family and orphaned nephew William from England to New York in 1846 and then to Iowa in 1855. The story of Cousin William (as he was called) and his bird paintings is reported elsewhere (Kent 2000). John expanded his father's farming operation, which helped provide farms for his five sons. Three of the five sons continued to farm; of the other two, one became a professor of geology and the other a physician. In addition to farming, John taught school, was involved in local affairs, read extensively, and traveled widely in his later years.

In this progressive atmosphere and rapidly changing world, the youngest son David rapidly developed into a skilled amateur ornithologist. The world of ornithology started in 1758 when Carl Linnaeus published his first list of birds with binomial Latin names in the tenth edition of *Systema Naturae*, thus triggering a 100-year rush to name all living creatures of the world. The works of Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall, published in 1808–1813, 1827–1837, and 1833–1834, respectively, provided surveys of North American birds. The efforts of



Spencer Fullerton Baird at the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. National Museum with his collaborators and many protégés, beginning about 1850, provided a complete description and classification of North American birds and ushered in the museum era. The formation of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1883 and publication of its *Check-list of North American Birds* in 1886 created a national ornithological organization and agreement on the naming of birds. These developments, along with the rapid development of railroads and farm equipment, provided the spare time and knowledge that allowed a number of Iowa youths who reached maturity in the 1890s to become professional naturalists (Rudolf M. Anderson, Bert H. Bailey, Paul Bartsch, Lynds Jones, and Frank H. Shoemaker to name a few). The 1890s was the decade in which Iowa ornithology blossomed, and the IOA and David L. Savage were in the midst of it.

David L. Savage's interest in birds was clearly inspired by Cousin William. On the first page of his journal in 1891 he wrote, "Mch-27th. Friday. Father and I went to Cousin Wm's to see his paintings, I had not seen them since I could remember. They are fine. 'I do not expect any other man in Iowa has paintings near as fine as Cousin Wm.' Mch-28th. Saturday. Still at C- W- he showed me how to skin a bird, he shot and skinned a meadow lark. This is the first time I ever saw any one skin a bird. Saw a pewee [Eastern Phoebe], first for 1891. C. W. gave me the following directions for a preservative: 1 oz. Corrosive Sublimate. 1 oz. Alcohol. 1/4 oz. Camphor. Today one might say I first received the determination to become a bird student, it was here that I first felt the great desire to learn of the 'feathered friends.'"

This was no understatement. In the three and a half years of diary that he wrote, I cataloged 1,884 bird sightings involving 133 species. There are about four years of his active birding years for which there is no diary. At first I thought there must be journals for the missing years, but after examining the originals I had to agree with Lewis D. Savage that he stopped and started making diary entries without commenting on the missing dates. Many of the entries concern common birds that he saw while working on his father's farm (for \$3.50 per month) or while on sojourns to nearby areas. He was an avid collector of birds' eggs and specimens. In the second part of the diary, he gives specifications on specimens that are so detailed that even Spencer Fullerton Baird would have been impressed. He did not give any counts on his egg or specimen collection, but he seemed disappointed when his father brought back "just fifty kinds of bird eggs from England." Collecting birds and their eggs was a common practice in that

era. Walter G. Savage (son of William and 23 years older than David) wrote to David on 30 April 1897 offering to sell his "collection of 400 bird skins (of 150 kinds) and 100 sets of eggs (about 50 kinds)" for \$100.00.

Incidentally, among the Savages, Walter was the only other active birder besides William and David. He birded with David on occasion, but he moved to and from Iowa frequently and it is difficult to track his life. He was an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union when he died in 1917 in Arkansas (Palmer 1954).

David L. Savage's diary contains unpublished records of several disappearing game birds. Most important are his records of Passenger Pigeon (all in Henry County): "first flock ever" on 4 April 1892, flock on 24 Apr 1892, 2 flocks on 2 May 1892, large flock ("I am certain they were passenger pigeons") on 24 Apr 1893, and 26 on 29 April 1897. The last record exceeds the last verified Iowa record of a bird shot near Keokuk in September 1896 (Dinsmore 1994). A Ruffed Grouse nest with 12 eggs found in northeastern Van Buren County on 5 May 1893 was David's only record of this species. There is a record of Ruffed Grouse from Van Buren County as late as 1928 (Dinsmore 1994). Greater Prairie-Chickens were recorded in the vicinity of the Savage farm 19 times from 1892 to 1897. Wild Turkeys were gone from Iowa by the 1890s except for a few records in southeastern Iowa up to 1910 (Dinsmore 1994). David saw one turkey on 23 April 1891.

Other rare birds noted in the diary include: American White Pelican (1 of 2 on the Des Moines River in Van Buren County on 14 September 1896 was brought to Savage for mounting), Swallow-tailed Kite (1 flying north along the creek on 20 February 1897), Long-eared Owl (a nest found on 29 April 1893), Pileated Woodpecker (25 Nov 1896 in diary, 3 in Henry County near Big Creek on 15 September 1894 in *The Iowa Ornithologist* [Savage 1894b]), White-eyed Vireo (25 May 1892 and 2 October 1892 [record latest], Bewick's Wren (6 records from 3 years on the farm), and Worm-eating Warbler (nest with 5 eggs on 25 May 1892 [Savage 1893; 1899]).

There were two interesting records that are questionable: Yellow Rail (4 on a neighbors prairie on 3 May 1892 seems reasonable, but the same number still present on 3 June raises doubts about the identification for a species that nests well north of Iowa); a Pygmy Owl (Coues) or Little Owl (Wilson) seen by David and shot by Walter in northeastern Van Buren County on 5 May 1893. (Wm. Savage

does not mention this owl but acknowledges the Ruffed Grouse nest found on the same day.)

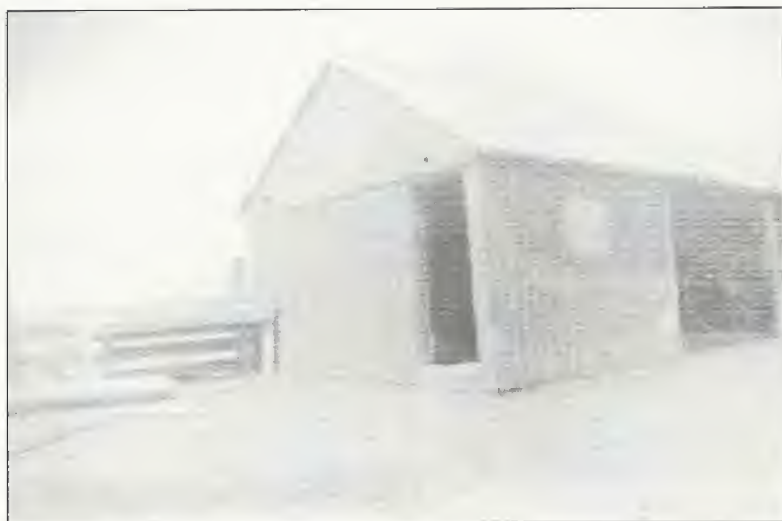
Several species that are now taken for granted as common in Iowa were not common in Henry County in the 1890s. Great Horned Owl is mentioned once, Northern Cardinal twice, Tufted Titmouse four times, and Red-winged Blackbird five times. It is hard to explain why he did not encounter Great Horned Owl more often (Barred Owl was regular). Red-winged Blackbirds were more of a marsh bird in those days and he did not specifically identify many of the flocks of "blackbirds."

Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole were mentioned frequently, but Summer Tanager was not mentioned. Savage's experience in southeastern Iowa in the 1890s is notable for its paucity of grebes, herons, ducks and geese, shorebirds, gulls and terns, and warblers. Other than a creek, there was no habitat for water birds in his limited environs, and migrant warblers would have been hard to identify or to shoot. He records 15 warbler species.

The diary also chronicles Savage's early attempts at photography. Pictures of Blue-winged Teal and Northern Harrier nests are among Iowa's earliest ornithological photographs (Savage 1898).

David L. Savage went to high school (his sister Sarah Alice was teacher for at least two terms), attended Whittier College (a Quaker school in Salem), worked on his father's farm, and pursued birds with a vengeance. Unfortunately, the two and a half year lapse in the diary deprives us of exact dates of his education and his account of the beginning of the Iowa Ornithological Association. His name may have become known to the founders through his notes in the *Oologist* in 1893 and 1894 or through Gus Walters, a teacher at Whittier College and life-long friend (Savage 2000). At any rate, David L. Savage was editor of *The Iowa Ornithologist* for the entire four volumes of its existence, beginning when he was only 17. He doesn't say much about the job, except for meeting deadlines and interacting with several different printers.

On 19 August 1896, 48 letters were mailed by the treasurer (Savage) to members requesting an early payment to cover all debts. Perhaps this explains why Professor Conrad of Parson's College, on 12 September 1896, advised Savage that *The Iowa Ornithologist* be discontinued for fear of going into debt. It was not until July 1898, however, that, on the last page of the last issue, David L. Savage wrote, "Other duties involving upon me make it my unpleasant task to tender my resignation as Editor. . . ." Lewis D. Savage suggested to



David L. Savage's editorial office exterior in Henry Co., IA

me that the "other duties" involved his buying a farm of his own from his father and becoming a school teacher. At this time the United States was in the middle of the Spanish American War, so that may have been a factor in the demise of the organization. The meeting for 1898 was not held, but the journal was succeeded by *The Western Ornithologist* (published by C. C. Tyron of Avoca) for three issues in 1900 and later by *The Bittern* (published by Glen M. Hawthorn of Cedar Rapids) for four issues in 1900–1901.

The Iowa Ornithologist was a lively journal and still makes interesting reading. Starting with the first page of the first issue and continued in later issues were notes on various groups of birds written by assigned authors and based on data and experiences submitted by the members. There were also a variety of other articles on Iowa birds and notes on sightings from members. Also included were organizational business, reports of meetings, book reviews, and advertisements.

The first of three annual congresses of the IOA was held in Iowa City on 22–23 August 1895 (Law 1895). The nine members present heard nine papers (two read in the absence of the authors) on the following subjects: protection of birds, warblers, duck hawk, extinct birds and those becoming so, crows, bird laws, prairie chicken, sea birds that visit Iowa, and Ruffed Grouse. The latter paper by David L. Savage was accompanied by William Savage's painting of a Ruffed

Grouse (see front cover). A new constitution was formulated and a committee appointed to compile a complete annotated list of Iowa birds. The Talbot collection of bird skins was viewed on the fourth floor of the Science Building.

The second meeting was held in Mount Vernon on 29–31 July 1896 with nine active members present (Bailey 1896). The ten papers (four read in the absence of the authors) covered the following topics: warblers (two papers), Acadian Flycatcher, Trail's Flycatcher, cowbird (David L. Savage), woodpeckers (William Savage), peculiar nests, protection of birds, raptors, and birds from an esthetic standpoint. William Savage exhibited 200 of his bird paintings. David L. Savage was added to the committee to compile the state list and made its chairman.

Both William and David L. Savage recorded details of the trip in their diaries. They packed the paintings into a rented buggy (\$2.50 for the trip) that was pulled by a Savage horse, and they camped out in barns along the way.

The third meeting held in Manchester on 1–3 September 1897 (Law 1898) was attended by an unknown number of people. David L. Savage rode the 60 miles to the meeting on his bicycle (letter David L. Savage to William Savage, 30 August 1897). Topics of the 12 papers (three were "read") were "one small piece of ground," summer birds of Oneota Valley [Upper Iowa River], psychic nature of bird songs, what members can do for the association, interbreeding of flickers, Swamp Sparrow, summer birds, Manchester Agassiz Association, "Through Naturalist's Eyes" (D. L. Savage [1898]), bird notes, fossil birds in Iowa, and practical ornithology. The business meeting held out doors 15 miles north in Clayton County was described as "intensely interesting" but the Turkey Vulture perched directly overhead on one of the hottest days of the summer may have



David L. Savage collecting plants at West Okoboji, Dickinson Co., IA in 1949.

better portended the fate of the organization. Members discussed birds to be included on the annotated list. An assessment of \$1 per member was made to settle debts. C. C. Tyson of Avoca was appointed advertising manager and awarded the contract for printing the journal at \$9 per issue. D. L. Savage was appointed chairman of the Program Committee and chairman of a committee to prepare a presentation to the Farmer's Alliance.

The announcement for the fourth meeting to be held at Ames on 21–23 September 1898 was optimistic and advertised the completely rearranged Ornithological Museum of the Ames Agricultural College (Newell 1898). Thirty-two years later, one author was unable to ascertain the cause of the demise of the IOA (Anon. 1930).

Although the organization ceased, its efforts were continued by several of its members as they completed their graduate education. Paul Bartsch (1899) received a Master's degree at the University of Iowa for his compilation of the literature on Iowa birds. Rudolf M. Anderson (1907) followed the Checklist Committee's procedure of collecting data from Iowa birders and undoubtedly used Bartsch's bibliography to produce a book on Iowa birds for his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Iowa. Bert Heald Bailey (1918), a physician turned zoologist due to a heart condition, died as he was completing his Ph.D. work on raptors.

On 12 September 1898, John Savage notes in his diary that "Alice and David each began teaching school. . . ." David was now 21. Two years later on 29 August 1900 he married Minnie Clawson. Minnie died in June 1908 soon after the birth of their third son (David Fairlee, father of Dr. Alfred D. Savage). David L. then married Mae Dysart on 15 March 1911 and they had four children (including Lewis Dysart Savage born 7 January 1915). Professor H. E. Jaques (1947) of Iowa Wesleyan College and friend gives a brief account of David L. Savage's life.

In his later years, Savage was interested in botany and books. Although birds overwhelmed flowers in his diary, it is clear from the diary that he was identifying flowers at an early age. According to Jaques, he had a collection of 35,000 plants of 2,000 species, and his library contained 30,000 volumes. He added a two-story addition to the front of his farm house to house the collections and his sister Sarah Alice helped maintain them. He also built a mobile botanical laboratory to use in his travels around the state collecting plants.

I found very little evidence for any continued interest in ornithology. There is an IOU checklist dated 1–15 August 1949 at

Lewis and Clark State Park with 40 species checked. Perhaps he obtained the checklist at the meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union on 4–5 May 1946 that was held in Mount Vernon (Serbousek 1946). That meeting must have been a touching anniversary for the meeting of the IOA held there 50 years before. Charles R. Keyes (Taylor 1944), who had been at Cornell College all of those years and was president of the IOA in 1896, and David L. Savage were made Honorary Members of the IOU and some of William Savage's paintings on loan from the State Historical Society were displayed.

The ornithological publications of David L. Savage are listed below with some annotations. His largest effort was a series of four articles in the *Midland Monthly* on selected Iowa birds with illustrations by William Savage. In addition to papers and notes, I include his editorial contributions in *The Iowa Ornithologist*.

Savage, D. L. 1893. Notes on the birds of Henry Co., Iowa. *Oologist* 10:325–326.

Savage, D. L. 1894. Vireonidae in Iowa. *Oologist* 11:214–216.

Savage, D. L. (Compiler). 1894. Notes on the birds of Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(1):1–16. [Notes sent by members on finches, sparrows, and warblers; uses AOU names and numbers, reference to number in Coues list.]

Savage, D. L. 1894. The opening address. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(1):22–23.

Savage, D. L. 1894. Active members. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(1):24. [20 members plus two honorary and four associate.]

Savage, D. L. (Ed.). 1894. The Pileated Woodpecker in southern Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(1):26.

Savage, D. L. 1894. To Iowa bird-lovers. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(2):26. [Call for members.]

[Law, J. E., J. V. Crone, and D. L. Savage]. 1895. Notes on the birds of Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(2):29–44.

Anon. [Savage, D. L.]. 1895. A new scheme. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(2):49. [Call for rarest finds in 1894.]

Savage, D. L. 1895. Iowa Ornithological Association. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(2):50. [Requests of members, new members.]

[Savage, D. L., J. D. Law, and J. V. Crone]. 1895. Notes on the birds of Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(3):55–66; 1(4):79–85.

Savage, D. L. 1895. Report of the Secretary of the Iowa Ornithological Association for the year ending June 15, 1895. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(4):87.

- Anon. [Savage, D.L.] 1995. Notes and news. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(4):89-90. [Walter Savage secures female Gary Star Buzzard on 25 May 1895.]
- Savage, D. L. 1895. A favorite place. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(4):91. [Birds found on walk.]
- Anon. 1895. Programme: The first annual congress of the Iowa Ornithological Association. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(4):92. [Paper "The Ruffed Grouse" by David L. Savage. See also *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(1):22-23 for reference to painting.]
- Savage, D. L. Wants exchanges and for sales. *Iowa Ornithologist* 1(4): inside back cover. [Wants back issues of *Ornithologist* and *Oologist* and Keys and Williams paper.]
- [Savage, D. L.]. 1895. A word from the editor. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(1):22.
- Savage, D. L. 1895. Exchange column. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(1):30. [Wants complete file of *Ornithologist* and *Oologist* and Jordan's *Manual of Vertebrates*.]
- Savage, D. L. 1895. Untitled. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(2): Inside front cover. [Combined subscription with *Oregon Naturalist*.]
- Savage, D. L. 1896. Exchange column. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(2): Inside back cover. [Wants papers by Allen, Parker, and Trippe.]
- Anon. [D. L. Savage]. 1896. The rambler noticed. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(3):74-75. [Walter G. Savage found Red-tailed Hawk nest with 3 eggs on 15 March in Van Buren County and other bits of news.]
- Savage, D. L., C. R. Keyes, M. E. Peck, P. Bartsch, J. V. Crone, and H. J. Giddings. Birds of Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(4):84. [Check-list enclosed with issue for members to send list of birds seen in state.]
- Savage, D. L. 1897. Observations on the cowbird. *Iowa Ornithologist* 3(1):4-7.
- Savage, D. L., C. R. Keyes, M. E. Peck, P. Bartsch, J. V. Crone, and H. J. Giddings. 1897. Bird migration in Iowa. *Iowa Ornithologist* 3(1):12-13. [Check-lists received from 14 people.]
- Anon. [David L. Savage]. 1897. News and notes. *Iowa Ornithologist* 3(2):24-25. [D. L. Savage talk at Glendale on 27 April; series of papers in *Midland Monthly*.]
- Savage, D. L., M. E. Peck, J. V. Crone, C. R. Keyes, P. Bartsch, and H. J. Giddings. 1897. A complete and annotated list of Iowa birds. *Iowa Ornithologist* 3:25-28. [Lists 16 contributors of lists to date, plans.]
- Savage, D. L. 1897. Birds of the Midland Region. *Midland Monthly* 7:400-495.

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- D. L. S. [Savage]. 1898. Some Oological Abnormalities. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(1):15. [Book review.]
- Savage, D. L. 1898. Bird protection. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(2):1-5. [Hunting, plumes for women's hats, and children collecting eggs discussed and remedies proposed.]
- Savage, D. L. 1898. Through naturalist's eyes. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(3):4-11. [Essay on nesting birds; photos of Blue-winged Teal and Marsh Hawk nests with eggs; drawings of goldfinch, screech owl, and yellow-breasted chat by Wm. Savage.]
- Savage, D. L. 1898. The editor's message. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(3):12. [Resignation as editor, last page of last issue.]
- Savage, D. L. 1899. The Worm-eating Warbler (*Halmitherus vermivorus*). *Oologist* 16:35.

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- Association. *Iowa Ornithologist* 2(1):23–26.
- Law, J. E. 1898. The third annual congress of the Iowa Ornithological Association. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(1):6–9.
- Newell, W. 1898. Ames 1898. *Iowa Ornithologist* 4(3):11.
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- Savage, D. L. 1899. The Worm-eating Warbler (*Halmitherus vermivorus*). *Oologist* 16:35.
- Serbousek, L. 1946. The twenty-fourth annual meeting. *Iowa Bird Life* 16:27–32.
- Taylor, Mrs. H. J. 1944. Iowa ornithologists of other days, Charles Reuben Keyes. *Iowa Bird Life* 14:72–74.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA



David L. Savage in 1949.

Field Reports — Summer 2000

James J. Dinsmore

WEATHER

Weather was fairly normal during summer 2000. After a long dry spell dating to late summer of 1999 that was broken in mid-May, temperatures and rainfall in June were fairly normal. Temperatures were typical of June with highs in the 80s or occasionally low 90s and lows in the 60s. There were the usual heavy rains in several parts of the state and some local flooding but nothing extensive. July was similar to June although a bit warmer and with somewhat less rain. No temperatures in excess of 100 were reported in either month.



J. Dinsmore

HABITAT CONDITIONS

The threat of extreme drought that persisted into early May diminished with the fairly normal patterns of rainfall that returned in June. The almost weekly rains across much of Iowa produced almost ideal growing conditions, and cropfields and haylands appeared lush. With the changes in rules for CRP, much of the land enrolled in that program is now in southern Iowa and many former CRP fields in northern Iowa are now in rowcrops. Several observers commented on the abundance of grassland species such as Dickcissel, Bobolink, and Sedge Wren. In northern Iowa, some of that apparent abundance may be due to the relative lack of suitable nesting habitat and the resultant concentration of those species in the remaining fields.

Although the May rains largely removed the threat of drought, the long dry spell dating back to late summer 1999 had an impact on wetland species this year. Many smaller wetlands in north-central and northwestern Iowa were dry at the start of summer and others had only a small pool of water in the deepest holes. As a result, some species that nest in the emergent vegetation around the edges of these wetlands were absent from many wetlands this year, presumably because of the lack of water at the time the birds selected nesting territories. Data collected by one of my graduate students, Rachel Dault, gives a hint of the problem. She found Pied-billed Grebes, American Coots, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds nesting on fewer wetlands in 2000 than in 1999.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

This was another relatively dull summer for birding in Iowa, although a few finds helped perk things up a bit. The most unusual species reported this summer, White-winged Dove and *Selasphorus* hummingbird, await review by the Records Committee. The report of a Spotted Towhee in northwestern Iowa also raises some interesting questions on whether it is a hybrid or not. Some of the other good finds were reports of Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Among nesting species, the best finds were nesting Mississippi Kites, Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gulls, Barn Owl, and the plethora of reports of Henslow's Sparrows. The continued growth of the nesting Bald Eagle population included further expansion into interior counties. Piping Plovers seemed to have had an average year but there were no reports of nesting by Least Terns. The nesting population of Double-crested Cormorants was up at Coralville Reservoir, a dubious distinction given that some circles are calling for efforts to control cormorant populations. As noted above, grassland species such as Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, and Bobolink seemed to have had a good year.

Besides the dearth of reports of some wetland species, I found the few reports of Black-billed Cuckoo, Loggerhead Shrike, and Purple Martin somewhat disturbing as was the lack of any reports of Worm-eating Warblers.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

Common Loon: All: 2 at Hallett's Quarry n. of Ames on 1 Jun (1 basic, 1 alternate, JJD, JSn, HZ) dwindled to 1 in basic plumage last seen on 5 Jun (JSn). In Cerro Gordo Co., 1 in basic plumage was at Mallard M. on 7 Jun (JLW) and another in first alternate plumage was on a small lake in Mason City on 5, 17 Jun (RGo, PHe). Finally, 1 in basic plumage was at 3 Mile Res. in Union Co. on 3 Jun (Rob Thelen fide JJD). These sightings suggest a late spring migration of this species through Iowa this year.

Pied-billed Grebe: Broods were found at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS) and Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). Several summered at Errington M. in Polk Co. but the species was almost absent in much of NW Iowa (RDa).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 at Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. on 15 Jun (EIA, EuA).

Western Grebe: All: 2 at Trumbull L. on 2 Jun (LAS) and singles at Dunbar Sl. on 15 Jun (EIA, EuA) and Coralville Res. on 22 Jun (MCD).

- American White Pelican:** The largest concentrations were at Coralville Res. (400 on 29 Jun, MCD; 500 on 31 Jul, THK), Mud L. in Palo Alto Co. (300 on 30 Jul, LAS), and Silver L. in Worth Co. (150 on 23 Jul, JJD). Other groups, all of fewer than 100 were found in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Kossuth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Winnebago, Winneshiek, and Wright counties (TNJ, CJE, PHe, JJD, MCK, BE, BKP, LJP, DeC).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** By far the largest group reported was 318 at Coralville Res. where 40 nests were seen on 9 Jun (MCD). Elsewhere, from 1 to 12 were found in Kossuth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Story, Winnebago, Winneshiek, and Worth counties (MCK, BE, BKP, LJP, HZ, JJD, DeC).
- American Bittern:** 1 or 2 were found in several wetlands in Clay, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Palo Alto counties (RDa, NBe, LAS).
- Least Bittern:** A brood at Spring Run WA. (RDa) was the only evidence of breeding. Elsewhere, 1 or 2 were found in Allamakee, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Hancock, Jackson, Johnson, Kossuth, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Tama, and Winneshiek counties (FL, PHe, RDa, ELA, EuA, MCD, DCH, BE, MPr, DeC, DK).
- Great Blue Heron:** 85 at Union Sl. NWR on 9 Jul (MCK) was the only large post-breeding concentration reported.
- Great Egret:** 46 at Waubonsie WA. in Fremont Co. on 6 Jul (BKP, LJP) and 21 at Union Hills WA. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 31 Jul (PHe) were the only large post-breeding concentrations reported.
- Snowy Egret:** All: 2 at Coralville Res. on 2 Jun (CE) and 1 at Waubonsie WA. in Fremont Co. on 7 Jul (BKP, LJP) were the first summer reports since 1997.
- Little Blue Heron:** All: Single adults were reported at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. on 17 Jun (DK) and on Terra L. in Johnston on 18 Jun (BE).
- Cattle Egret:** All: 1 at Dan Green Sl. in Clay Co. on 5 Jun (LAS), 4 at Coralville Res. on 9 Jun (CE), and 2 at Union Sl. NWR on 9 Jul (MCK).
- Green Heron:** From 1 to 10 were reported in Allamakee, Clinton, Dickinson, Floyd, Johnson, Lee, Plymouth, Polk, Story, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties (BPr, MPr, DCH, JLW, BFH, BE, JJD, DeC).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 2 at Union Sl. NWR on 6 Jun (MCK), 1 at Brushy Cr. A. in Webster Co. on 22 Jun (Bruce Munson fide JJD), and 11 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 23 Jun (RGo).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 4 near Toolsboro in Louisa Co. on 6 Jun (ELA, EuA), 1 imm at Sedan A. in Appanoose Co. on 17 Jun (TNJ), and 1 imm. at Dugout Creek WA. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jul (LAS).
- White-faced Ibis:** All: Singles at Secret Pond in Fremont Co. on 12 Jun (MPr) and at Harrier M. on 14, 15 Jun (Scott Peterson fide JJD, ELA, EuA).
- Turkey Vulture:** The 19 at Algona on 16 Jun (MCK) and 6 roosting at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 23 Jul (JJD) were in areas where I wouldn't have expected to see this species 20 years ago.
- Snow Goose:** From 1 to 4 were reported in Clay, Fremont, Hancock, Palo Alto, Pottawattamie, Sac, and Woodbury counties (LAS, MPr, DeC, BKP, LJP, BFH).
- Mute Swan:** All: 2 at Big M. in Butler Co. on 21 Jun (BPr, MPr) and a pair at Mud L. in Clay Co. on 1 Jul (LAS) raise the question of whether this species will finally nest in Iowa.
- Gadwall:** The only brood reported was at Spring Run WA. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jul (LAS). In addition, from 1 to 8 were reported in Boone, Dickinson (3 sites), Emmet, and Kossuth counties (JJD, MCK). This species is now the third most abundant nesting dabbling duck in Iowa after Mallard and Blue-winged Teal.
- American Wigeon:** All: 6 at Maynard Reece WPA/Union Sl. NWR on 6 Jun (MCK) and 1 s. of Iowa City on 25 Jun (MCD).
- Northern Shoveler:** From 1 to 5 were found in Boone, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Winneshiek counties (JJD, JSn, MCK, DeC).
- Northern Pintail:** All: 1 at Littlefield P. in Audubon Co. on 17 Jul (PHA, RIA).

Green-winged Teal: All: Singles at Secret Pond on 12 Jun (MPr), Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. on 29 Jun, 15 Jul (DeC), and at Dugout Creek W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 29 Jul (LAS).

Canvasback: All: 1 s. of Iowa City from 25 Jun to 7 Jul (MCD).

Redhead: A brood at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. on 25 Jun (G. Grange fide LAS) was the only indication of breeding. Other reports were from Dickinson and Palo Alto counties (JJD, LAS) where the species is expected and, surprisingly, 5 s. of Iowa City on 5 Jul (MCD) where it is not.

Ring-necked Duck: All: 1 at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. on 5 Jun (JJD) and 2 s. of Iowa City from 25 Jun to 23 Jul (MCD).

Lesser Scaup: All: A pair at the Kettleston Hogsback W.A. on 4 Jun (JJD) and 1 s. of Iowa City from 25 Jun to 23 Jul (MCD).

Bufflehead: All: A female at Marble L. on 8 Jul (LAS) is only the 5th recent summer record.

Hooded Merganser: Broods were reported from Mud L. in Clay Co. (D. Chafa fide DCH), on a private pond near East Lake Okoboji (RDa), and at Jemmerston Sl. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Other reports of 1 or 2 females were from Boone, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Polk, Worth, and Wright counties (JJD, RDa, BE).

Red-breasted Merganser: A male and female were seen at Myre Sl. in Winnebago Co. on 22 Jul (RGo).

Ruddy Duck: Singles were reported in Boone, Cerro Gordo, Palo Alto, and Winneshiek counties (JJD, PHe, LAS, DeC). Five at Little River Rec. A. in Decatur Co. on 11 Jun (MPr) and 4 at Otter Creek M. on 17 Jun (MPr) were south of where this species is expected in summer.

Osprey: The introduction program continued with releases at Lake Macbride (4 birds), Cedar Falls (5 birds), and Saylorville Reservoir (5 birds) in late July. Singles were seen in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Johnson, and O'Brien counties (RLC, JLW, MPr, DK). Most interesting

were the reports of one seen foraging in the Marble L./West Okoboji region during June and July (DCH).

Mississippi Kite: A nest in Urbandale was monitored from 4 Jul on and produced 1 young (PJW, ELA, EuA, PHA, RIA, MPr-details) for the second confirmed nest in Iowa. A second pair was found in south Des Moines on 13 Jul (ELA, EuA) and also may have been nesting.

Bald Eagle: About 20 new eagle nests were reported this year, raising the state total to more than 100. New counties reporting nests this year included Butler, Cass, and Palo Alto (BEh).

Northern Harrier: All: 2 nests were found in Lucas Co. and 1 was successful (LM); this is down from the 5 nests found there last year.

Cooper's Hawk: Nests were reported at L. Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. (1 well-feathered young on 20 Jun, JSi), Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. (2 young on 20 Jun, JSi), O'Brien Co. (young present on 24 Jun, DK), and at Jefferson Co. P. (3 young fledged by 10 Jul, DKi). Other reports, all singles, were from Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Polk (2 sites), and Van Buren counties (JLW, DCH, BE, DT, RLC) and probably all represented local breeding.

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 1 at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS) was out of its usual range.

Broad-winged Hawk: All: 1 at Yellow River S.F. on 22 Jun (MPr) and 1 at Stone S.P. on 26 Jun (BFH).

Swainson's Hawk: All: Singles nw. of Forest City in Winnebago Co. on 7 Jun (PEB) and w. of Mason City on 28 Jul (CJF).

Peregrine Falcon: Three nests produced young this year: Cedar Rapids-4, Des Moines-2, and Lansing-4 (BEh). Birds were also released at Dubuque-17 and Lansing-6 (BEh).

Gray Partridge: 1 or 2 were seen in Clay, Hancock, Lyon, and Polk counties (JJD, MPr, BE).

Northern Bobwhite: 1 or 2 seen or heard in Benton, Louisa, and Polk (2 sites) counties (BPr, MPr, BE, DT) present some evidence of a partial recovery of this species recent range retraction. In the heart of its southern Iowa range, Johnson found bobwhite on 22 of 50 stops on his Breeding Bird Survey route, his highest total in several years.

Virginia Rail: Only two people mentioned this species. Leshner found 1 near New Albin in Allamakee Co. on 24 Jun (FL), whereas Dault found it breeding on far fewer northwestern Iowa wetlands this year compared to last year.

Sora: Dault was the only person to mention this species. She noted that they seemed less common this year than in 1999.

Common Moorhen: All: 2 at Green Island WA. in Jackson Co. on 29 Jun (ELA, EuA) and singles at Green Island and Goose L., Clinton Co., both on 21 Jul (BPr, MPr).

American Coot: It was a confusing year for this species as I believe few nested in Iowa. The 20 at E. Twin L. in Hancock Co. on 6 Jun (DeC) and 21 at Harrier M. on 6 Jun (JJD) were probably migrants as were 2 at MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 22 Jul (BKP, LJP). The 6 to 8 seen at Errington M. in Polk Co. in June and July (BE, DT) and 12 at Cardinal M. on 29 Jun (DeC) are more suggestive of nesting although no evidence was presented.

Sandhill Crane: All: 1 or 2 at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC, DK), 1 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. (MCD), and 3 at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (PHA, RIA) were all at sites previously occupied by cranes.

Semipalmated Plover: Last in spring: 3 at Dugout Creek WA. on 3 Jun (LAS). First in fall: 2 at Saylorville Res. on 23 Jul (BE).

Piping Plover: At MidAmerican Energy Ponds near Council Bluffs, a nest containing 4 eggs on 1 Jun hatched on 8 Jun (BKP, LJP). Two adults with 3 young were seen there on 9, 12, and 29 Jun (BKP, LJP, MPr). At Port Neal near Sioux City, 2 pairs each had 2 young on 18 Jun (BFH).

Killdeer: Most: 100 at Zirbel Sl. on 31 Jul (PHe).

American Avocet: All: 2 at Coralville Res. on 22 Jun (MCD) and 8 there on 31 Jul (MCD).

Greater Yellowlegs: All: 13 at Maynard Reece WPA in Kossuth Co. on 9 Jul (MCK), 2 at Errington M. and 2 at Saylorville Res., both on 23 Jul (BE) and 1 at Union Hills WA. on 31 Jul (PHe).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last in spring: 7 at Dunbar Sl. on 1 Jun (JJD). First in fall: 1 at Maynard Reece WPA on 22 Jun (MCK). Most: 25 at Elk Creek M. in Worth Co. on 23 Jul (JJD).

Solitary Sandpiper: First in fall: 1 at Mill Creek S.P. in O'Brien Co. on 27 Jun (DK). Most: 19 at Harrier M. on 19 Jul (JJD).

Willet: All: Singles at Saylorville Res. on 18 Jun (BE), Coralville Res. on 22 Jun (MCD-details), and L. Rathbun on 16 Jul (TNJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 broods were noted at Saylorville Res. on 8 Jul (BE).

Upland Sandpiper: 1 or 2 were found in Cerro Gordo, Davis, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Polk, and Story counties (RGo, PHe, MPr, JJD, BE, ELA, EuA, DT, HZ).

Whimbrel: 1 at Coralville Res. on 7 Jun (*MCD, *CE) was only the second summer record for Iowa; the other was in 1988.

Marbled Godwit: All: 2 at L. Rathbun on 26 Jul (TNJ) and 1 at Coralville Res. on 27 Jul (MCD-details).

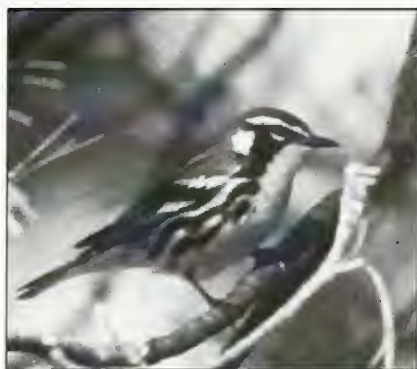
Ruddy Turnstone: All: 4 at Coralville Res. on 27 Jul (MCD).

Sanderling: All: 7 at Coralville Res. on 16 Jul (MCD) and 3 there on 27 Jul (MCD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last for spring: 30 at Colo Ponds in Story Co. on 5 Jun (HZ) and 10 at Union Sl. NWR/Maynard Reece WPA on 6 Jun (MCK). First for fall: 12 at Saylorville Res. on 23 Jul (BE).

Western Sandpiper: All: singles at Dugout Creek WA. in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jul (LAS-details) and at Coralville Res. on 29 Jul (James Huntington fide THK-details).

Least Sandpiper: First for fall: 1 at Maynard Reece WPA on 4 Jul (MCK). Most: 22 at Saylorville Res. on 23 Jul (BE).



Yellow-throated Warbler in June 2000 at Mt. Hosmer, Lansing, IA.
Photo by F. Z. Leshner.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last for spring: 31 at Dugout Creek W.A. on 3 Jun (LAS) and 8 at Union Sl. NWR/Maynard Reece WPA on 6 Jun (MCK).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: Singles at Dugout Creek W.A. on 3 Jun (LAS) and MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 29 Jun (BKP, LJP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last in spring: 1 at Harrier M. on 5 Jun (JJD). First in fall: 9 at Harrier M. on 19 Jul (JJD). Most: 25 at Elk Creek M. in Worth Co. on 23 Jul (JJD) and 25 at Zirbel Sl./Union Hills W.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 31 Jul (PHe).

Dunlin: All: Singles at Dugout Creek W.A. on 3 Jun (LAS) and Coralville Res. on 4 Jun (MCD).

Stilt Sandpiper: First in fall: 3 at Dugout Creek W.A. on 8 Jul (LAS). Most: 6 at Zirbel Sl./Union Hills W.A. on 31 Jul (PHe).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 1 at Coralville Res. on 27 Jul (MCD).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First in fall: 2 at Maynard Reece WPA on 9 Jul (MCK). Most: 8 at Union Hills W.A. on 31 Jul (PHe).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 at Lost Island M. in Palo Alto Co. on 30 Jul (LAS-details) was a bit early.

American Woodcock: All: Singles at Chichaqua W.A. in Polk Co. on 4 Jun (DT), in Cerro Gordo Co. several times from 5 to 25 Jun and 2 on 15 Jun (RGo, PHe), and at Coralville Res. on 19 Jul (NBe); all are probably indicative of local breeding.

Wilson's Phalarope: All: 4 females at Kirchner Prairie in Clay Co. in early June (Tom Neal fide LAS), 1 at Coralville Res. on 4 Jun (MCD), and 1 female at Union Sl. NWR on 6 Jun (MCK). All are suggestive of local nesting.

Franklin's Gull: Other than Dickinson County where 78 were seen near Hottes L. on 4 Jun (JJD) and a few lingered all summer (LAS), other reports were of 9 birds at MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 1 Jun (BKP, LJP) and a few at Saylorville Res. in June and July (BE, JJD).

Ring-billed Gull: The small nesting colony at Meinking M. in Dickinson Co. was active again with 8 nests noted on 15 Jun (NBe). At Saylorville Res., the summering group grew from 12 on 18 Jun to 119 on 30 Jul (BE). Elsewhere, from 1 to 15 were seen in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Pottawattamie, and Winnebago counties (TNJ, PHe, BKP, LJP, JJD).

Herring Gull: All: 1 at Coralville Res. on 6 Jun (MCD).

Caspian Tern: All: 2 in NW O'Brien Co. on 13 Jun (MPr), 3 to 6 that apparently summered at Saylorville Res (BE, JJD), and 1 on 29 Jun and 4 on 21 Jul at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Common Tern: All: 1 at Trumbull L. on 3 Jun (LAS-details).

Forster's Tern: 8 at Grovers L. on 4 Jun (JJD) may have been nesting. Other sightings (6 at E. Twin L. in Hancock Co. on 6 Jun, DeC; 1 at MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 12 Jun, MPr; 10 at Coralville Res. on 22 Jun, MCD; 4 at Heron Bend in Lee Co. on 22 Jul, MPr; and 2 at Zirbel Sl. on 26 Jul, JLW) were probably a mixture of migrants and nonbreeders.

Least Tern: A total of 11 were at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 29 Jun (BKP, LJP). No one noted any eggs or young.

Black Tern: Ten at Grovers L. on 4 Jun (JJD), 25 at Mud L. in Clay Co. on 4 Jun (JJD), 60 at Union Sl. NWR on 9 Jul (MCK), 18 at Littlefield P. in Audubon Co. on 17 Jul (PHA, RIA), and 40–50 at Zirbel Sl. on 26 Jul (JLW) were all probably migrants. Other reports of 1 to 8 from Boone, Cerro Gordo, Jasper, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Winneshiek counties (JJD, RGo, PHA, RIA, MPr, BKP, LJP, DeC) were probably a mixture of migrants and nonbreeders.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: All: 1 at the usual Grinnell site on 5 Jul (BPr, MPr-details), 2 in Montgomery in Dickinson Co. on 8 Jul (LAS).

White-winged Dove: Two reports of this species, both in June, await the scrutiny of the Records Committee.

Mourning Dove: Although a common Iowa species, the sight of 134 resting on sand piles south of Iowa City on 23 Jul attracted the attention of Dooley.

Black-billed Cuckoo: All: 1 or 2 at Grammer Grove in Marshall Co. on 3 Jun (MPr), and singles at Stone S.P. on 13 Jun (BFH), at Johnston on 30 Jul (BE) and at Saylorville Res. in June and July (BE). Is this species underreported or disappearing?

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: From 1 to 4 were reported in Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Fremont, Hardin, Jefferson, Marshall, Polk, Van Buren, Warren, and Woodbury counties (JJD, RGo, LAS, MPr, DCP, BE, BFH), about typical for a summer.

Barn Owl: All: An adult was seen near Riverton in Fremont Co. in early June but no nest was found (Steve Cordts fide JJD). A nest s. of Washington in Washington Co. had 5 young on 10 July (Don Pfeiffer fide BEh). An unknown number of eggs in another nest near Elkhorn in Audubon Co. were accidentally destroyed in July; the female re-nested and 6 eggs were taken to be hatched in an incubator (George Hemmen fide BEh). Finally, Zebert Freemyer's Barn Owl factory had no active nests this year (BEh).

Burrowing Owl: All: 1 e. of Rock Rapids in Lyon Co. was found in late July and confirmed on 1 Aug (DCH-details).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 seen sporadically at L. Pahoja Co. Park in Lyon Co. in June (Craig Van Otterloo fide DCH) and 1 at Kellerton Bird Cons. A. in Ringgold Co. on 11 Jun (MPr). These sightings suggest a few still nest in Iowa.

Chuck-will's-widow: 1 was reported at the usual site near Waubonsie S.P. in Fremont Co. on 11 Jun (MPr).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: From 1 to 4 were seen in Allamakee, Clayton, Johnson, Marshall, Polk, and Winneshiek counties (DeC, BPr, MPr, CE, DT), about typical for summer.

Selasphorus hummingbird: Perhaps the most exciting find of the summer was the sighting of a female *Selasphorus* hummingbird at a feeder in Mason City on 19 Jul (*RGo, *JLW, *CJF, PHe-details). The story became more interesting when it was found that the female was feeding young at a nearby nest. At first it was suspected that the other parent was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird but later evidence pointed to the possibility that it was a Rufous Hummingbird.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Both Carter and Thompson noted that this species seemed a bit harder to find this summer, an observation with which I concur.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: a pair with young at Oak Hill Cemetery in Emmet Co. on 11 Jun (LAS), 1 imm at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. on 13 Jun (MPr), 2–5 in Yellow River S.F. on 22 Jun (BPr, MPr), and 2 during the summer in O'Brien Co. (DK) span this species range across northern Iowa.

Pileated Woodpecker: From 1 to 3 were seen in Allamakee, Boone, and Van Buren counties (BPr, MPr, EIA, EuA, JSi, DT, RLC).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All: 1 in NE Dallas Co. on 6 Jun (PHA, RIA) and 1 near Huxley on 8 Jun (Paul Bystrak fide JJD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: 1 at Algona on 1 Jun (MCK) and 1 at Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. on 3 Jun (MPr).

Acadian Flycatcher: From 1 to 6 were found in Allamakee, Louisa, Van Buren, and Warren counties (DeC, BPr, MPr, MCD, RLC).

Alder Flycatcher: All: 1 at Grammer Grove W.A. on 3 Jun (MPr-details), 5 at Algona on 3 Jun (MCK), 1 at Macoon Access in Jefferson Co. on 4 Jun (DKi), and 3 at Union Sl. NWR on 6 Jun (MCK).

Willow Flycatcher: From 1 to 5 were reported in Butler, Cerro Gordo, Tama, Van Buren, Winneshiek, Woodbury, and Worth counties (BPr, MPr, PHe, DeC, BFH, JJD).

Least Flycatcher: Singles at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS), Union Sl. NWR on 6 Jun (MCK), and Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 9–11 Jun (RLC, MPr) were likely late migrants whereas one at Yellow River F. on 22 Jun (MPr) more likely was nesting. We really need a better understanding of if, and where, this species nests in Iowa.

Western Kingbird: Besides 2 nests found at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds on 1 Jun (BKP, LJP) and 2 nests on the state capitol grounds in Des Moines (Jane Clark fide JJD), this species was present near Paullina in O'Brien Co. on 2 Jun (DK) and at Des Moines on 1 Jul (BE).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: All: 1 s. of Sidney in Fremont Co. on 24 Jun (Bill Jackson-details fide JJD).

Loggerhead Shrike: All: Singles in Wayne Co. on 11 Jun (MPr), near Mason City on 26 Jun (RGo), and near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. on 22 Jul (DK) and noted as present in Lucas Co. on 1 Jul (BE). This is far fewer reports than most recent years.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 1 at L. Macbride S.P. in Johnson Co. on 8 Jul (CE).

Bell's Vireo: From 1 to 4 were found in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Fremont (2 sites), Jasper, Jones, Mills, Muscatine, O'Brien, Polk (3 sites), Pottawattamie, Story, Van Buren, Winneshiek, and Worth counties, about par with recent summers (RLC, CJF, RGo, MPr, MCD, BE, JJD, DT, DeC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: From 1 to 10 were reported in Allamakee, Appanoose, Carroll, Clay, Fremont, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Louisa, Mills, Polk, Tama, Van Buren, Warren, and Winneshiek counties (DeC, BPr, MPr, RLC, JJD, LAS, MCD, BE).

American Crow: 420 were entering a roost in Ames on 31 Jul (JJD).

Purple Martin: Porter could find only 4 in Fairfield, and Carter noted it was absent from Decorah. I saw colonies only near Elkhart and Jester Park, both in Polk County. Is this species disappearing from Iowa?

Bank Swallow: 300 at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. was the only large post-breeding concentration noted (BFH).

Carolina Wren: Besides the 10 found in Fairfield in late July (DCP), other reports were of 1 or 2 in Des Moines, Madison, Mills, Polk, and Van Buren counties (BPr, MPr, ELA, EuA, BKP, LJP, PJW).

Sedge Wren: Hertzell noted a fledgling at Walch W.A. in Cerro Gordo Co., the only evidence of breeding by this elusive species. I received reports from Appanoose, Johnson, Muscatine, Polk, Story, Wayne, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, CE, BE, DT, HZ, DeC) including several that indicated it was common this summer.

Marsh Wren: 6 at Errington M. on 23 Jul (BE), 2 that summered at Larsons M. in Story Co. (HZ), and 1 at Coralville Res. on 29 Jul (CE) roughly outlined the southern limit of this species' Iowa breeding range.

Veery: All: Singles at Ledges S.P. on 6 Jun (PHA, RIA) and Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. on 4 Jul (ELA, EuA) and 2 at Grammer Grove W.A. on 3 Jun (MPr). This is fewer sightings than last year.

Wood Thrush: From 1 to 5 were found in Allamakee, Carroll (2 sites), Cerro Gordo (2 sites), Clay, Clayton, Dallas, Fremont, Hardin, Marshall, Mills, Sioux, Van Buren, Warren, Winneshiek, and Worth counties (BPr, MPr, JJD, JLW, LAS, BKP, LJP, JSi, DeC).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 1 at Indiagrass Hills in Iowa Co. on 4 Jun (MCD), 2 in Davis Co. on 11 Jun (TNJ), 3 in Appanoose Co. on 17 Jun (with young, TNJ), 3 at 3 locations in Appanoose Co. on 23 Jul (TNJ), and 3 pairs in Madison Co. (EIA, EuA).

Blue-winged Warbler: From 1 to 3 were found in Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties (DeC, MPr, RLC, JJD), all at known sites for the species.

Northern Parula: From 1 to 3 were reported from Appanoose, Muscatine, Polk, Van Buren, and Warren counties (TNJ, MCD, BE, MPr), all within the established range of this species.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Singles were found in Shimek S.E. in Lee Co. on 1 Jun (PHA, RIA), at two sites in Yellow River E. on 18 Jun (DK), at Burr Oak in Winneshiek Co. on 27 Jun (DeC), and at Kent P. in Johnson Co. on 23 Jul (CE). All may have been breeding locally although the Lee Co. bird may have been a late migrant.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Singles were reported from Boone and Van Buren counties (JJD, RLC, MPr), both established sites for this riverbottom species whereas 1 at Lansing on 22 Jun (FL) was north of its usual Iowa range (see photo).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: A female at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 5 Jun (LAS) was a late migrant (3rd latest).

Cerulean Warbler: From 1 to 4 were reported in Allamakee, Clay, Clayton, Johnson, and Louisa counties (DeC, DK, BPr, MPr, LAS, MCD), all established sites for this species.

Black-and-white Warbler: All: A singing male in Warren Co. on 3 Jun (JSi).

American Redstart: Only a few observers mentioned this species, presumably because it is relatively common in woodlands statewide.

Prothonotary Warbler: All: 6 at the Sedan A. in Appanoose Co. on 17 Jun (TNJ) and 2 near New Albin in Allamakee Co. on 21 Jun (MPr). The only nesting report was a pair at a nest with young at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. in late June (R. Nelson fide DKi).

Worm-eating Warbler: No reports for the first time in at least 16 years.

Ovenbird: Reports for this species came from three of Iowa's four corners (Allamakee, Lyon, Van Buren, Warren, and Winneshiek counties; BPr, MPr, DeC), suggesting that it is found in suitable woodland habitat statewide.

Louisiana Waterthrush: From 2 to 4 were reported from Muscatine and Van Buren counties (MCD, RLC, MPr). Because of its early nesting season, presumably it is overlooked during the summer months. A male at Stone S.P. in Woodbury Co. on 13 Jun (BFH) was on the edge of its normal range.

Kentucky Warbler: From 1 to 3 were found in Allamakee, Louisa, Van Buren, and Warren counties (DEC, BPr, MPr, MCD, JSi), all within its established range in Iowa. Carter noted an adult taking food to young in Yellow River E. on 3 Jul, one of the few confirmations of breeding for Iowa. Koenig commented that he could not find it in Yellow River E., an area that he has monitored for years.

Mourning Warbler: All: A male at Algona on 1 Jun (MCK).

Hooded Warbler: All: A male on private land in Warron Co. on 3 Jun (JSi), one at L. Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. on 16 Jun (MPr), and a female there on 1 Jul (JSi). The latter was the first female Sinclair has seen in 5 years of following these birds.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Singles were found in Dallas, Johnson (3 sites), Louisa, and Van Buren counties (JJD, PHA, RIA, NBe, MCD, MPr, RLC), about typical for this somewhat elusive species.

Summer Tanager: All: 1 at Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 10 Jun (MPr) and 3 at Waubonsie S.P. on 22 Jul (BKP, LJP).

Scarlet Tanager: The 1 to 3 found in Allamakee, Clay, Fremont, Hardin, Mills, Page, Sioux, Story, Van Buren, Warren, and Woodbury counties (BPr, MPr, LAS, BKP, LJP, HZ, BFH) cover the four corners of Iowa and point out the statewide distribution of this species.

Eastern Towhee: 3 males at Bertram A. in Clay Co. on 3 Jun (LAS) were somewhat out of its usual Iowa range.

Spotted Towhee: 1 seen briefly at Hidden Bridge W.A. in Lyon Co. on 28 Jun is the first summer report of this species in Iowa (DCH). The two towhee species hybridize widely across Nebraska with both species present in northeastern Nebraska (Ross Silcock, pers. comm.). Although this bird may be a hybrid, only "in-hand" examination would likely solve the issue. It is a very interesting find, and one that merits further surveys along the Big Sioux River.

Clay-colored Sparrow: All: Several were at Anderson Prairie in Emmet Co. in June (RFL), the second successive summer report from there.

Lark Sparrow: A flock of 35–40, including many juveniles, that Dooley flushed at Coralville Res. on 28 Jul represents several years of sightings of this locally distributed species. Others reported from 1 to 7 in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Lyon, Plymouth, and Story counties (RLC, CJF, RGo, PHe, JLW, MPr, JJD). In late June, adults were seen carrying food and later with a young bird at two sites at Lime Creek Nature Center in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, JLW).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The only reports came from Cerro Gordo and Polk counties (JJD, DT, RGo). Thompson thought it was less common in Polk Co. this year than in the past.

Henslow's Sparrow: It was another great year for this species with reports from 14 counties. The most reported were the 10 plus from near Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. where several apparent juveniles were seen (RGo, PHe, CJF). Seven were at the usual site near L. Sugema in Van Buren

Co. (MPr) and at least 7 were at the Kellerton Bird Conservation A. in Ringgold Co. on 11 Jun (MPr). Several were found at Hayden Prairie in Howard Co. (RFL), once a regular site for the species. In addition 1 to several were found at sites in Allamakee, Appanoose, Emmet, Floyd, Fremont, Johnson, Kossuth, Muscatine, Palo Alto, Polk, and Winneshiek counties (MPr, RLC, TNJ, RFL, MCK, Steve Cordts fide JJD, MCD, Michelle McDowell fide MCK, CE, PHA, RIA, BE, DT, DeC). Is this species increasing in numbers or are observers just getting better at finding it?

Swamp Sparrow: 1 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. on 29 July (MCD) is at the southern edge of its summer range in Iowa.

Blue Grosbeak: A pair again nested s. of Boone and were seen carrying food to young in early July (Karl Jungbluth, JJD), east of its usual range. Besides reports from its usual western Iowa range in Fremont, Lyon, Pottawattamie, and Sioux counties (BKP, LJP, MPr, DCH), 2 were seen near Lacey Keosauqua S.P. in Van Buren Co. in southeastern Iowa on 11 Jun (MPr).

Dickcissel: Carter, Engbreetsen, and Fletcher all commented on the abundance of Dickcissels this summer.

Bobolink: Fletcher, Hertzell, and Proescholdt all commented that it was fairly common this summer.

Eastern Meadowlark: 1 near Larchwood in Lyon Co. on 28 Jun (DCH) was decidedly out of its usual haunts as was 1 at the Little Sioux Access in Clay Co. on 1 Jul (LAS).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Numbers of this species were decidedly reduced in NW Iowa, apparently due to the dry conditions still evident through mid May (JJD). However, 13 were at Errington M. in Polk Co. on 11 Jun (BE) and 35 were at Waubonsie W.A. on 6 Jul (BKP, LJP), suggesting it was still common in some areas.

Great-tailed Grackle: Singles at wetlands in SW Emmet Co. and NW Palo Alto Co., both on 5 Jun (JJD) are first county records. From 1 to 3 were found in Dickinson, Polk, and Tama counties (NBe, MPr, JJD).

Brown-headed Cowbird: See Orchard Oriole.

Orchard Oriole: From 1 to 3 were found in Appanoose (2 sites, one with brood), Cerro Gordo (2 sites), Clay, Dallas, Decatur, Fremont, Polk (2 sites),

Washington, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, TNJ, CJF, RGo, PHe, LAS, JJD, MPr, BE, DT, DCP, DeC). Harr found a nest at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co., and Thompson saw one feeding a young cowbird at Saylorville Res.

Pine Siskin: All: 1 at a feeder at Ventura in Cerro Gordo Co. on 5 Jun (CJF).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All: 7 at Indian Sl. in Louisa Co. on 11 Jun (MCD) and 1 at Fruitland in Muscatine Co. on 21 Jul (MPr).

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Great Gray Owl in Grundy County

Hank Zaletel

On 17 February 1996, Doris Van Deest of rural Dike was driving north on Highway 14 from Grundy Center. After driving approximately five miles, she noticed an owl lying alongside the road that apparently had been struck and killed by a motor vehicle. Being knowledgeable about birds, she was sure it was not a Barred or a Great Horned Owl.



Because her husband was a board member of the Grundy County Conservation Board, it was natural for her to call Kevin Williams, the board's director and voice her concerns. Conservation staff then went to the site and collected the bird and verified that it was a Great Gray Owl.

The owl remains in th possession of the conserva-
tion board. In recent months, the Audubon Club for
the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area has donated funds to have
the owl mounted. When this work is completed, the
owl will be placed on display at the Grundy County
Museum in Morrison.

1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
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Great Gray Owl

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Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

22–24 September 2000, Lakeside Laboratory, Lake Okoboji

Spring 2001, Keosauqua

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (James L. Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240, james-fuller@uiowa.edu)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu).

IOWA BIRDLINE: (319) 338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

IOU NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net).

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@uswest.net).



